

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----018599 081659Z /41

O R 081554Z SEP 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1689
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 JERUSALEM 2493

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2&2
TAGS: PBOR, MARR, UNSC, IS, LE, XF
SUBJ: UNIFIL PROBLEMS WITH HADDAD AND SHIDIAK

REF: JERUSALEM 2486 (NOTAL)

1. HERE IS TEXT OF ERSKINE'S REPORT TO UNNY DATED SEPT 6,
CITED REFTEL.

2. BEGIN TEXT: "MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TODAY, 6SEPT, WITH HADDAD
AND SHIDIAK WAS CANCELLED BY BOTH BY REASON OF THE ANNOUNCE-
MENT BY LEBANESE GOVT THAT THEY HAVE NO AUTHORITY TO ACT ON
BEHALF OF THE LEBANESE ARMY OR NEGOTIATE WITH UNIFIL. PRESS
REPORT OF THIS ANNOUNCEMENT WHICH APPEARED IN TODAY'S "JERUSALEM
POST" HAS BEEN SENT TO YOU BY SEPARATE CABLE, REFERENCE NAQ
1598 FILTSO 2212 FILB 1079. HOWEVER, LT COL HAMIZRACHI FROM
IDF HAS SUBMITTED A WRITTEN QUOTE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE COMMANDERS OF SOUTH LEBANON, MAJOR SAAD HADDAD
AND MAJ SAMI SHIDIAK, AND UNIFIL UNQUOTE REQUESTING THAT EITHER
MYSELF OR MY CHIEF OPERATIONS OFFICER ACKNOWLEDGE IN WRITING
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THE RECEIPT OF THIS MEMORANDUM WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:

3. "QUOTE: A. RECONNAISSANCE:
(-) A BUILDING FOR UNIFIL-LIAISON-TEAM (NOT MORE THAN SIX
PERSONS) WAS SELECTED IN NORTHEAST MARJAYOUN, AMR 7419 6948.

(2) A LOCATION FOR ADDITIONAL UNIFIL POSITION WAS SELECTED

BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF DIR MIMAS AND THE LEBANESE STRONGHOLD AT NABI AWEDS, AMR 7363 6865.

(3) TWO BUILDINGS FOR UNIFIL USE WERE SELECTED IN THE VILLAGE OF BENEI-HAJOUN AND THE AREA WAS SURVEYED FOR POSSIBLE POSITION. COORDINATION OF BUILDINGS AMR 7318 6824 AND 7319 6823. UNIFIL REPRESENTATIONS (SIC) WERE INTRODUCED BY MAJ HADDAD TO LOCAL MUKHTAR.

(4) THE AREA OF THE VILLAGE OF TALUSA WAS SURVEYED FOR LOCATION OF ADDITIONAL UNIFIL POSITIONS, AMR 7312 6813. UNIFIL WILL ALSO RENT A BUILDING IN THE WESTERN OUTSKIRTS OF TALUSA.

(5) A LOCATION FOR POSSIBLE UNIFIL POSITIONS IN THE BLAIDA AREA WERE FOUND AT AMR 7335 6715 (HILL 666) AND THE USE OF THE DIRT ROAD FROM BLAIDA-CENTER TO HILL 666 AND TO THE UNIFIL POSITION IN THE AREA OF AMR 7313 6701 WAS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

UNIFIL REPRESENTATIONS (SIC) WERE INTRODUCED TO LOCAL MUKHTAR AND NOTABLES.

(6) A BUILDING FOR UNIFIL-LIAISON-TEAM (NOT MORE THAN TWO OFFICERS) WAS SELECTED IN THE BINT JBAIL AREA, NORTHERN PART.

4. "B. MEETINGS:

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(1) MAJ S HADDAD AND MAJOR S SHIDIAK DECLARED THAT THE ABOVE MENTIONED LOCATIONS FOR POSITIONS AND LIAISON WILL BE THEIR LAST CONCESSIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS-QUO IN THE AREAS CONTROLLED BY THEM.

(2) NONE OF THE NEW LOCATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS WILL BE USED BY UNIFIL AS AN OBSTACLE TO THE FORCES UNDER THE COMMAND OF MAJOR HADDAD AND MAJOR SHIDIAK WHICH WILL MAINTAIN THEIR FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT AND OPERATIONS IN THE AREAS CONTROLLED BY THEM.

5. "UNIFIL WILL NOT BRING ANY HEAVY WEAPON-SYSTEMS AND ARMoured VEHICLES TO THE AREA WITH THE EXCEPTION OF ONE AML/APC FOR THE USE ON DIRT ROADS BETWEEN THE POSITIONS IN THE MUHBEIB-BLAIDA-EITAROUN AREA. IT WILL NOT BE USED TO PATROL VILLAGES OR MAIN ROADS.

6. "MAJ HADDAD WILL OPEN IMMEDIATELY THE MARJAYOUN/IBIL AS SAQY ROAD FOR UNIFIL LOGISTIC AND ADMINISTRATIVE MOVEMENT UNDER THE CONDITION THAT UNIFIL WILL NOT ALLOW ANY MOVEMENT ON SAID ROAD OTHER THAN ITS OWN, AS AGREED UPON CONCERNING THE BLAT-DIBIN ROAD.

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EXDIS

7. "UNIFIL WILLRENEW ITS ACCEPTANCE OF HAVING MAJ HADDAD'S
GENDARMES POSTED ON THE IBIL AS SAQY ROAD JUNCTION.

8. "THE LIAISON-OFFICES IN MARJAYOUN AND BINT JBAIL WILL BE
MANNED AS FOLLOWS:

(A) MARYAYOUN:
ONE NEPALESE OFFICER
ONE NORWEGIAN OFFICER
UP TO FOUR NEPALESE SOLDIERS

(B) BINT JBAIL: TWO IRISH OFFICERS

9. "REPRESENTATIVES OF IRISH AND NEPALESE FORCES OF UNIFIL
WILL BE ALLOWED TO START PREPARATIONS AND RECONNAISSANCE BEGINN-
ING SUNDAY, 3 SEPT 1978, EVEN BEFORE THIS MEMORANDUM OF UNDER-
STANDING WILL BE OFFICIALLY APPROVED.

10. "UNIFIL WILL SEND AN ENGINEER PLATOON TO THE AREA TO HELP
WITH MINE-CLEARING OPERATIONS AND WITH THE OPENING OF:

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(A) THE IBIL AS SAQY ROADBLOCK

(B) THE ROAD TO THE NEW LOCATION BETWEEN DIR-MIMAS AND NABI
AWEDA. UNQUOTE.

11. "I FIRMLY BELIEVE THAT I OR ANY UNIFIL OFFICER SHOULD NOT ENTER INTO ANY WRITTEN COMMITMENT OR ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF ANY TYPE OF DOCUMENT WITH HADDAD AND SHIDIAK. MOREOVER, THIS "MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING" GENERALLY CONTAINS CLAUSES WHICH ARE COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE. AS AN EXAMPLE, THE PRINCIPLE CONTAINED IN PARAGRAPH 4. B. (1) THAT THESE ARE "LAST CONCESSIONS CONCERNING THE STATUS QUO IN THE AREAS" IS FULLY INADMISSIBLE. ALTHOUGH SOME OF THE LOCATIONS MENTIONED IN THE DOCUMENT MAY BE AGREEABLE TO UNIFIL, AND ANYHOW COULD BE FURTHER NEGOTIATED, THE CONCEPT OF FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT IN PARA 4.B. (3) AND PARA 4.B. (4) IS NOT SATISFACTORY. FURTHERMORE, THE CONDITIONS AS STATED IN PARA 4.B. (2) MUST BE FULLY REJECTED.

12. I HAVE COMPLAINED ABOUT THE SITUATION TO BEN GAL, NORTHERN COMMANDER, AND HE HAS PROMISED TO PURSUE THE MATTER WITH HADDAD AND SHIDIAK.

13. THOUGH A FIELD RECONNAISSANCE MAY POSSIBLY TAKE PLACE TODAY FOR CHOOSING SITES FOR POSITIONS AND THAT THE LIFTING OF ROADBLOCKS SHOULD IN PRINCIPLE TAKE PLACE TOMORROW, 7 SEPT, BOTH THE RECONNAISSANCE AND THE LIFTING OF THE ROADBLOCKS ARE CONDITIONAL ON THE WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGMENT BY UNIFIL OF THE ABOVE QUOTED MEMORANDUM. SINCE SUCH ACKNOWLEDGMENT, IN MY OPINION, CANNOT BE MADE, WE FACE A SITUATION TOTALLY IN CONTRADICTION WITH THE DECISIONS CLEARLY STATED BY WEIZMAN CONCERNING FURTHER DEPLOYMENT OF UNIFIL IN THE ENCLAVES. I WILL CERTAINLY KEEP YOU INFORMED OF ANY FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS BUT IN THE MEANTIME WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE YOUR ADVICE ON HOW TO PROCEED.

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14. "I HAVE ALSO MADE AN ORAL PROTEST TO IDF LO FOR THE POSITION SET OUT IN THE MEMORANDUM, WHICH IS INCONSISTENT WITH THE UNDERTAKINGS GIVEN BY WEIZMAN RELATING TO UNCONDITIONAL FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT OF UNIFIL AND LIFTING OF ROADBLOCKS.
END TEXT.
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